

I believe the E-rate grants are the most fair and equitable of any available for education entities. It gives everybody, based on need, the capability of increasing the technology available for student use without the necessity of a grant writing process which only serves a few, usually well funded, entities. However, from our experience of the past 5 years, I believe the way correspondence is handled by sl.universalservice.org leaves a lot to be desired. We have, in three seperate incidents, had to wait for over 6 months to get any response from the Schools and Libraries service organization. We can give you specifics if you would so desire. The only other problems that I feel exist is that too much of the money is tied directly to the tele-monopolies and a school can take the reimbursement from these tele-monopolies and spend it in any way they so desire, whether it benefits student use of technology or not. This does nothing to help solve the problem of the haves and the have-nots, as far as technology is concerned. Sincerely, Ed Kirkpatrick, Network Administrator, Madison School District #321, 290 N 1st E, Rexburg, ID 83440-1520, 208-359-3300 x3023, kirke@mail.d321.k12.id.us